

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 63-79 are pending.

Claims 63, 69 and 74 are being amended. After the amendments, claims 63-79 will be pending.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-62. (Canceled)

63. (Currently amended) A method for preparing an antibody or a fragment thereof that comprises the antigen binding site of the antibody, wherein said antibody binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit ~~of human or murine origin~~ (SEQ ID NO:6 or 8), or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;

said method comprising:

- (a) raising an antibody to the IL-B30/p40 complex or a polypeptide that comprises at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the p40 subunit and at least 11 contiguous amino acids from the IL-B30 subunit,
- (b) ~~determining the specificity of the antibody raised in step (a) using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein, and~~ confirming that said antibody binds to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein; and
- (c) optionally preparing said fragment from said antibody.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 63, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

67. (Canceled)

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) A method of selecting an antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit ~~of human or murine origin~~ (SEQ ID NO:6 or 8), or
 - (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;
- wherein the antibody or fragment does not bind the IL-B30 or p40 subunit alone,

said method comprising

(a) providing candidate antibodies or fragments that bind to the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein; and

(b) ~~contacting~~ detecting if the candidate antibodies or fragments ~~with~~ bind the IL-B30 ~~and or~~ p40 ~~subunits~~ subunit, and selecting ~~said~~ the antibody or fragment that does not bind the IL-B30 or p40 subunit.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said antibody or fragment is selected by immunoselection or immunodepletion.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

74. (Withdrawn – currently amended) A method for identifying an antibody or fragment thereof that binds to:

- (i) a mammalian IL-B30/p40 complex comprising an IL-B30 subunit (SEQ ID NO:2 or 4) and a p40 subunit ~~of human or murine origin~~ (SEQ ID NO:6 or 8), or
- (ii) a fusion protein comprising the IL-B30 subunit and the p40 subunit;

said method comprising:

- (a) providing candidate antibodies or fragments, and
- (b) determining the specificity of the candidate antibodies or fragments using the IL-B30/p40 complex or fusion protein and identifying said antibody or fragment.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody or fragment is a humanized antibody, monoclonal antibody, single chain antibody, Fv fragment, Fab fragment, Fab' fragment, or F(ab')₂ fragment.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody is a neutralizing antibody.

77. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein said antibody or fragment is detectably labeled.

78. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 74, wherein the fusion protein comprises, from the N-terminus to the C-terminus, mature IL-12 p40, a linker, and mature IL-B30.

Applicant : Oppmann, et al.
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79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said antibody or fragment is detectably labeled.